

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Macon County Office Building
Macon County Board Room #514
141 S. Main Street, Decatur, IL 62523**

February 23, 2023 @ 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Kraft – Vice Chair
Bill Oliver
Andrew Hogan
Grant Noland

MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Mattingley- Chair

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Baggett, Assistant State's Attorney
Scott Rueter, State's Attorney
Sheriff Root
Jon Perona, DPBC
Judge Bollinger, Circuit Court
Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk
Michelle Sanders, Public Defender
Amy Smith, Probation
Robert Bellah, Court Technology
Justin Root, EMA
Courtney Tuggle, Public Defender Office
Tamara Wilcox, County Administrator
Carol Reed, Auditor
Kevin Greenfield, County Chairman
Crystal Hugger, County Board Office

Vice Chair Kraft called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/26/2023 meeting, seconded by Mr. Noland, and the motion carried 4-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Mr. Oliver. Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk –

Ms. Doty reported that she has reached out to all the Circuit Clerks to find out how much they pay for Jurors. I have gotten several replies back and hopefully next week I will have them to go over with Judge Griffith and Judge Bollinger. The letter by how it is and how much money we bring in. It goes from \$5 dollars to the small counties and up to \$100 dollars with Cook County.

Circuit Courts –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment for Court Technology Improvements

Judge Bollinger reported that he was standing in for Judge Griffiths. The resolution is asking to approve and allow us to amend the budget to take in some grant money of \$100,000 dollars to fund some technology for court rooms primarily for new computers. That will allow us to expend

money for that purpose. This is a grant that Robert applied for and received and he is here to answer any questions in terms of what we might use it for.

Vice Chair Kraft said it is just a pay in and pay out.
Judge Bollinger responded correct.

Mr. Noland made a motion to approve, and seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion carried 4-0.

Coroner – No report

Court Services / Probation – No Report

Emergency Management Agency –

Mr. Root reported that on January 25th and 26th they had a class in GT-341 for health organizations. We originally had 24 people registered to show up but due to a winter storm we only had 9 appear. Overall engagement in the class was pretty good.

On February 15th we held a damage assessment workshop. This is a process for determining the nature and extent of the loss suffering in or harms to the community resulting from a natural accident or human caused disaster. Gaps that we identified at the workshop is that we need to figure out what we need for ready to go kits and we want to have two ready to go kits. We want to have one staged over here in the Planning and Zoning and one staged over in the EMA office. When we need to go we can just grab a kit and just go.

On February 26th it was the kick-off of the Mitigation Plan update with the vendor Integrated Solutions Consulting and a recording of that webinar is available on the County website <http://maconcounty.illinois.gov> it is an hour long. It explains the mitigation process and what has to be done to approve and adopt a plan. More to come on mitigation as we disseminate a survey for feedback. This survey for the public as well as for stakeholders all input is important to ensuring we have a comprehensive plan that addresses all hazards and concerns for Macon County. Please take the time to complete the survey once we have it available. I do not know when it will be available at this time.

On March 8th we have a free Storm Spotter training at Richland Community College in the Schelling Auditorium. It will be from 6:30 until 9 p.m. There should be flyers out and about.

Vice Chair Kraft said the Storm Spotter that is open to anybody?
Mr. Root responded that is open to anybody you just have to show up and you do not have to register.

Decatur Public Building Commission – No report

Public Defender's Office –

Ms. Sanders reported that Attorney numbers remain still at a critical level. We are only at 6 of 10 fulltime Attorney's right now. We have maintained at the moment but only because it has been winter when everything slows down. We are expecting an uptick in cases in the spring that is

probably going to be difficult. We got a lot of local Attorneys who has been working under contract with us to try and help sustain us through all of this but I don't think there is enough contract Attorneys to help us through this summer if we can't find more help. I have posted the jobs. I have somebody who is a potential but we are waiting to see what happens and maybe two potentials. I just wanted to let everyone know that we are approaching a critical stage for us.

Sheriff's Department –

Sheriff Root reported that Lieutenant Clayton Barrows is the Assistant Jail Administrator. His month of being the Chief Deputy is going to be coming to a conclusion here in a few days. Next month it will be Detective Jedlicka and after that we will be making a decision on who is going to be replacing Chris Thompson in April.

Our current inmate population is 281 and of those 48 are FEDs and 19 of them are from Champaign. We have 11 unfit.

Lieutenant Barrows said that it is down to 9 and that DHS has taken a hand full of people.

However we have a list of 15 people waiting fitness evaluation fitness hearing and it could go right back up again.

Mr. Oliver asked when you say unfit what does that mean.

Sheriff Root said unfit to stand trial and they have been ordered to be held by the Department of Health and Human Services to get them fit. They will probably come back here and stand trial.

Vice Chair Kraft asked where do they go for that?

Lieutenant Barrows replied that they will come and do an evaluation based on their history and need so it could be Chester, McFarland, and Alton are the main three.

Sheriff Root said that some of them have been in our custody for over 150 days.

State's Attorney -

Mr. Reuter stated that with staffing levels they have 11 Attorneys now 12 including him. Back when I was States Attorney before our highpoints was 19 or 20. We reduced the number officially since then. It will be nice to have 16 and probably will survive to have 15. The trick is to finding those last four people. We had one but he left us under circumstances that I am not happy about but I do have a new person starting on March 1st. I am down 3 Attorneys for what we could get by with four for optimal.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Public Comment- None present

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING March 23, 2023

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Kraft at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Macon County Board Office